

up to date in its chemical control recommendations, well printed and well produced. At £3.20 it deserves a place in the 'special problems' section of the medical officer's bookcase. One small warning: it is of large page size and must, therefore, be consulted before meetings, as it cannot be furtively scanned during them nor tucked in the pocket 'just in case'.

E. F. EDSON

Wechsler's Measurement and Appraisal of Adult Intelligence, 5th ed. Edited by J. D. Matarazzo. (Pp. 572; £6.50) Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone. 1973.

The contribution of Dr. D. Wechsler to the theoretical and practical aspects of our understanding of intellectual functioning is of considerable importance to psychology and those disciplines whose work involves the use of psychological measurement techniques. The fifth edition of *Wechsler's Measurement and Appraisal of Adult Intelligence* produced by Dr. Matarazzo is of some interest and importance. In a number of areas more detailed and useful information is given than in previous editions.

The book is divided into four parts. The first discusses the nature, classification, and assessment of intelligence; the second, early and modern approaches to the validation of concepts of mental retardation and intelligence. Part three gives fairly detailed descriptions of the Wechsler-Bellevue and Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scales. Part four looks at the problem of validation yet again and discusses applications of the Wechsler scales, along with some other psychological techniques. Before dealing with these sections in a little more detail there is one important comment which might be made. Wechsler's contribution to the measurement and applications of intellectual assessment techniques is very important. His work has extended over a wide age range. It would have been of considerable value if the new and enlarged edition of this book had included sections on the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) and the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scales of Intelligence (WPPSI).

I would recommend this book very highly. It needs to be read by anyone seriously interested in the measurement of adult intelligence. There are, however, a number of points which ought to be made for readers less familiar with the wide range of literature on intelligence available in psychological journals and other books. Many psychologists are still unhappy with the detailed use made of the subtests of the Wechsler scales in relation to theoretical problems and practical decision making in the clinical and educational fields. Subtest differences should be interpreted with considerable caution by, and only by, extremely experienced psychologists. In general, the basic assessment of Full Scale IQ (FSIQ), Verbal IQ (VIQ), Performance IQ (PIQ), the discrepancy between Verbal and Performance IQ, and the Deterioration Quotient of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale have considerable reliability and validity.

The relationships between brain damage, organic disorders, personality, and psychiatric disorders to cognitive functioning are also extremely complex. Views expressed in *Wechsler's Measurement and Appraisal of Adult Intelligence* in this area need to be read with care. In particular, the qualitative, diagnostic, and clinical

features approach to the use of Wechsler's scales would not be recommended by all psychologists. Qualitative features on subtests or items may, for the experienced clinical or educational psychologist, suggest hypotheses about the patient, for example, certain types of abnormality of functioning. These, however, would need to be investigated with the use of many other tools before decisions of any significance could be made.

In summary, therefore, I would say that this book is a valuable one in expressing the approach of Wechsler and his colleagues to the measurement of adult intelligence and some of these applications. It is a 'must' for academic and practising psychologists concerned with this area. Members of other disciplines, doctors, social workers, and others, would probably find a more general book on the measurement of intelligence or human behaviour more valuable.

R. D. SAVAGE

Noise and Man. By William Burns. 2nd enlarged edition. (Pp. 459; illustrated; £5.00) London: Murray. 1973.

Since the publication in 1968 of the first edition of *Noise and Man*, the book has become a standard text as well as an invaluable reference book for many involved in acoustics. Its usefulness has benefited students and lecturers, researchers and engineers, doctors and scientists. However, in a rapidly developing field such as acoustics, information can become outdated very quickly. The publication of the enlarged second edition is therefore particularly welcome.

One of the greatest assets of the first edition was its readability, and the second edition loses none of this. Its appeal to a wide readership is retained, while most of the topics covered are brought up to date in the same style. The author has the particular skill of explaining terms lucidly so that physiological, psychological, and physical discussions can be understood by all. The book remains one that can be recommended to new students of acoustics who already have a background in engineering, medicine or psychology.

It is unfortunate that publication delays are such that even this book does not adequately deal with developments that took place some 18 months or more ago. This is particularly noticeable in the section on Hearing Conservation. We feel that the book would have benefited by a fuller discussion of the UK Department of Employment *Code of Practice for Reducing the Exposure of Employed Persons to Noise* instead of the few lines added, almost as an afterthought, at the end of a paragraph and one figure reproduced in Appendix M. This document has assumed a great deal of importance in the UK, and it is a pity that fuller treatment was not given. The assessment of impulse noise hazards are dealt with in detail, but some recent work relating impulse noise to the equal energy concept is not included.

Modern developments in theories of hearing are covered, and it is interesting to read subtle changes in the text that illustrate our lack of understanding of the hearing mechanism. Some remarkable pictures of the organ of Corti are included. The sections on environmental noise have been modified extensively. More recently developed concepts such as the noise pollution level for assessing environmental noise are discussed in detail.